THE AVON PARK BOMBING RANGE
AVON PARK, FLORIDA

Thursday afternoon
March 18, 1943

Hello, keeds,-

Surprised to be hearing from me - and from Avon Park? - Well, to tell the truth, - I'm surprised to be writing, and from Avon Park too! - So there - that makes us even! -

We were scheduled for a cross country to Houston, Texas again - but due to "frontal weather activity" in those parts - our trip was called off: - So now - instead of flying both this afternoon and tonight - we are just going to fly tonight. - Nothing important - believe we are up for formation, dropping 10 bombs, and "local circle jerking" as we call our local night flying! -

Gee, have we rolled the hours of flying time up this month! - Up till the 13th we had flown 42 hours this month - and if you think that's not a lot of time - ask any pilot. - Just think in the 10 weeks of each cadet training phase - we would only log around 70 hrs -! I dont know just what my total time is to date but somewhere above 350 hrs! I'm rolling the time slowly, but surely.

We were scheduled to take a cross country yesterday, too - but were held up again by the weather. - It's not that we can't fly it in bad weather, it's that if we do - and get grounded somewhere -

well, that means another plane they have to do without in the training here until the grounded plane returns – and this place is primarily for training!

As I was going to say, – yesterday we were scheduled for Langley Field. – I tried to talk the navigator into getting us lost so we could land in D.C. – Wouldn't Ma have a fit if I were to call her and tell her I was at the airport? – The only trouble, tho, – I wouldn't have been able to stay at the field more than long enough to gas up and have a short rest – say 1½ to 2 hrs. – It's always something!

I forgot to tell you – my first pilot has checked me out. – That is – I land, take-off and can fly the ship anywhere. – If I were still down in the 478 Sqdn. that would mean I would be eligible to be a 1st pilot with a crew of my own. – As it is, I guess I will go on across as copilot – and get my plane + crew on the other side, – or at least so they tell me!

I'm really surprised to be still in the U.S. – you remember, in my last letter I mentioned I was "on the alert" in readiness for combat duty, I thought. – Well, – I was taken off that shipment – but have been put on another one for about 2 weeks – this is liable to break on a moments notice so I can't really plan a darn thing. – We will probably go somewhere, get our own ship, and sorta get used to it before we start pushing water behind us. – This is just a guess on my part, tho – some do + some don't. –

We have some officers here just back from Alaska – you should hear them tell of polar bear hunting in a cub!

Gotta sign off now – be good and let me hear from you. – The quarter is for Janet, Daddy!

Frank